

Claim 15 (new)

A method for use by a business enterprise which manufactures vehicles having a plurality of joint types which are adhesively bonded, said method comprising the steps of:

identifying a joint of a certain type from said plurality of joint types;

determining an adhesive coverage percentage for said certain type of joint that maximizes bond strength while substantially eliminating adhesive seepage; and

consistently using only said determined coverage percentage to adhesively bond all of said plurality of joint types which are of said certain type of joint throughout said business enterprise, thereby establishing standards for all adhesively bonded joints within said vehicles manufactured by said business enterprise.

Claim 16 (new)

The method of claim 15 wherein said step of determining an adhesive coverage percentage for said certain type of joint comprises the steps of:

determining a coverage length of a unique one of said certain type of joint; and

calculating said coverage percentage as a percentage of said coverage length.

Claim 17 (new)

The method of claim 16 wherein said certain type of joint is a lap joint.

Claim 18 (new)

The method of claim 15 wherein said step of determining an adhesive coverage percentage for said certain type of joint comprises the steps of:

determining a coverage length of a unique one of said certain type of joint;

determining a fillet length for said unique one of said certain type of joint; and

calculating said coverage percentage as a percentage of said coverage length and said fillet length.

Claim 19 (new)

The method of claim 18 wherein said certain type of joint is a one-half coach joint.

Claim 20 (new)

The method of claim 18 wherein said certain type of joint is a coach joint.

Claim 21 (new)

The method of claim 16 wherein said calculated coverage percentage is approximately fifty percent of said coverage length.

Claim 22 (new)

The method of claim 18 wherein said calculated coverage percentage is approximately fifty percent of said coverage length and approximately ten percent of said fillet length.

REMARKS

The Applicants' undersigned attorney thanks the Examiner for a kind and thorough review of the Application. In the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1 - 14. More specifically, claim 5 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph; claims 1, 2, and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) or §102(e); and claims 2 - 4, and 6 - 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, Rejections

In the Office Action, the Examiner determined that claim 5 was indefinite. The Applicants' undersigned attorney has cancelled claim 5 and asserts that the new claims 15 - 22 do not represent the indefinite character of claim 5 and that these new